

# LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG SAN DIEGO COUNTY RESIDENTS BY SEX, 2008

Number and Percent of Deaths and Age-adjusted Rates

| COUNTY-<br>WIDE<br>RANK in<br>2008 <sup>a</sup> | CAUSE OF DEATH <sup>b</sup>  | NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DEATHS |              |                     |              | AGE-ADJUSTED RATES <sup>c</sup> |              |                     |
|---|--|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
|   |  | MALE                         |              | FEMALE              |              | MALE                            | FEMALE       | SAN DIEGO<br>COUNTY |
|   |  | number of<br>deaths          | %            | number of<br>deaths | %            |                                 |              |                     |
| 1   | Diseases of heart  | 2,418                        | 24.6         | 2,334               | 24.4         | 179.3                           | 120.5        | 146.9               |
| 2   | Malignant neoplasms  | 2,521                        | 25.6         | 2,194               | 22.9         | 188.8                           | 129.3        | 155.0               |
| 3   | Alzheimer's disease  | 350                          | 3.6          | 792                 | 8.3          | 26.3                            | 38.9         | 33.9                |
| 4   | Cerebrovascular diseases   | 464                          | 4.7          | 657                 | 6.9          | 34.6                            | 34.4         | 34.9                |
| 5   | Chronic lower respiratory diseases                                 | 471                          | 4.8          | 573                 | 6.0          | 35.8                            | 32.0         | 33.7                |
| 6   | Accidents (unintentional injuries)                                 | 607                          | 6.2          | 325                 | 3.4          | 39.2                            | 18.9         | 29.0                |
| 7   | Diabetes mellitus  | 304                          | 3.1          | 267                 | 2.8          | 22.5                            | 15.2         | 18.4                |
| 8   | Intentional self-harm (suicide)                                    | 273                          | 2.8          | 86                  | 0.9          | 17.6                            | 5.5          | 11.3                |
| 9   | Influenza and pneumonia  | 161                          | 1.6          | 177                 | 1.9          | 11.9                            | 9.0          | 10.2                |
| 10  | Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis                                | 214                          | 2.2          | 120                 | 1.3          | 14.7                            | 7.4          | 10.9                |
| 11  | Essential (primary) hypertension and<br>hypertensive renal disease | 103                          | 1.0          | 173                 | 1.8          | 7.6                             | 8.6          | 8.3                 |
| 12  | Parkinson's disease  | 146                          | 1.5          | 75                  | 0.8          | 11.5                            | 3.9          | 7.1                 |
| 13  | Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and<br>nephrosis                     | 87                           | 0.9          | 95                  | 1.0          | 6.5                             | 5.2          | 5.8                 |
| 14  | Neoplasms - in situ, benign or unk<br>behavior                     | 70                           | 0.7          | 56                  | 0.6          | 5.4                             | 3.0          | 4.1                 |
| 15  | Viral hepatitis  | 77                           | 0.8          | 43                  | 0.4          | 5.3                             | 2.6          | 3.8                 |
|   | All Other Causes   | 1,578                        | 16.0         | 1,597               | 16.7         |                                 |              |                     |
|   | <b>TOTAL DEATHS:</b>   | <b>9,844</b>                 | <b>100.0</b> | <b>9,564</b>        | <b>100.0</b> | <b>719.6</b>                    | <b>522.1</b> | <b>612.5</b>        |

<sup>a</sup> Rank is based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories. The top 15 leading causes of death presented here are based on the county-wide rank among San Diego residents in 2007.

<sup>b</sup> Cause of death is based on the underlying cause of death reported on death certificates as classified by ICD-10 codes.

<sup>c</sup> All rates are per 100,000 population and are adjusted to 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

\* Rate not calculated for fewer than 20 deaths in this category.

Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Death Statistical Master Files;  
SANDAG January 1 population estimates (Original Estimates 2009\_Revised 2001-2008)

Prepared by County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Epidemiology & Immunizations Services, 4/19/2010

**LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG MALES AND FEMALES, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, 2008**  
**Number and Percent of Deaths, Crude Rates and Age-adjusted Rates**

**Table 1. Males**

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Cause of Death <sup>b</sup>         | Number of Deaths | %            | Crude Rate <sup>c</sup> | Age-adjusted Rate <sup>c</sup> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1                 | Malignant neoplasms (all cancers)   | 2,521            | 25.6         | 161.3                   | 188.8                          |
| 2                 | Diseases of heart                   | 2,418            | 24.6         | 154.7                   | 179.3                          |
| 3                 | Accidents (unintentional injuries)  | 607              | 6.2          | 38.8                    | 39.2                           |
| 4                 | Chronic lower respiratory diseases  | 471              | 4.8          | 30.1                    | 35.8                           |
| 5                 | Cerebrovascular diseases            | 464              | 4.7          | 29.7                    | 34.6                           |
| 6                 | Alzheimer's disease                 | 350              | 3.6          | 22.4                    | 26.3                           |
| 7                 | Diabetes mellitus                   | 304              | 3.1          | 19.4                    | 22.5                           |
| 8                 | Intentional self-harm (suicide)     | 273              | 2.8          | 17.5                    | 17.6                           |
| 9                 | Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis | 214              | 2.2          | 13.7                    | 14.7                           |
| 10                | Influenza and pneumonia             | 161              | 1.6          | 10.3                    | 11.9                           |
|                   | All other causes                    | 2,061            | 21           |                         |                                |
|                   | <b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>                 | <b>9,844</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>629.7</b>            | <b>719.6</b>                   |

**Table 2. Females**

| Rank <sup>a</sup> | Cause of Death <sup>b</sup>                                     | Number of Deaths | %            | Crude Rate <sup>c</sup> | Age-adjusted Rate <sup>c</sup> |
|-------------------|---|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1                 | Diseases of heart   | 2,334            | 24.4         | 148.8                   | 120.5                          |
| 2                 | Malignant neoplasms (all cancers)                               | 2,194            | 22.9         | 139.9                   | 129.3                          |
| 3                 | Alzheimer's disease   | 792              | 8.3          | 50.5                    | 38.9                           |
| 4                 | Cerebrovascular diseases  | 657              | 6.9          | 41.9                    | 34.4                           |
| 5                 | Chronic lower respiratory diseases                              | 573              | 6.0          | 36.5                    | 32.0                           |
| 6                 | Accidents (unintentional injuries)                              | 325              | 3.4          | 20.7                    | 18.9                           |
| 7                 | Diabetes mellitus   | 267              | 2.8          | 17.0                    | 15.2                           |
| 8                 | Influenza and pneumonia   | 177              | 1.9          | 11.3                    | 9.0                            |
| 9                 | Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease | 173              | 1.8          | 11.0                    | 8.6                            |
| 10                | Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis                             | 120              | 1.3          | 7.7                     | 7.4                            |
|                   | All other causes  | 1,952            | 20           |                         |                                |
|                   | <b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>   | <b>9,564</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>609.8</b>            | <b>522.1</b>                   |

<sup>a</sup> Rank is based on total number of deaths in each of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) "rankable" categories.

<sup>b</sup> Cause of death is based on the underlying cause of death reported on death certificates as classified by ICD-10 codes.

<sup>c</sup> All rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are adjusted to 2000 U.S. Standard Population.

Source: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Death Statistical Master Files; SANDAG January 1 population estimates (Original Estimates 2009\_Revised 2001-2008)

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